

Britons Astounded By Real American Democracy on Ship

Example of Social Equality Set by Two Waiters and Four College Lads Opens Eyes of English

MANCHESTER, Dec. 8.—A writer in The Manchester Guardian remarks a notable example of American democracy in the behavior of six young Americans at his table in the dining saloon of an ocean liner. Four, he says, are of the university variety, while two others waited on table.

"The two who wait were pale young men with glasses (gold-rimmed) and a good-natured indifference of attitude toward their surroundings that marks the difference between them and their temporary profession," the writer says. "They advise the others what to order, one hand placed friendly-wise on the shoulder, and at the least excuse they forget altogether the business in hand and join amably in the conversation. The college boys fall in, amiably, with this conception of their respective parts. Thus, when Murphy, the palest young man, volunteered the information that the upper part of his left lung was missing, owing to the action of German poison gas, the statement was received sympathetically as a quite normal contribution to the meal."

The next day, when he announced that he was feeling bad and preferred to take as few orders as possible, we inquired, naturally enough, whether it was the lung that was bothering him.

"Now, it's me stomach," In Southampton two officers got me down and one kicked me in the stomach."

Murphy Tells His Tale

"My bewilderment at this statement abated under the whispered explanation of one of the college boys to the effect that 'officer' was New Yorkese for a policeman. Encouraged to explain the reason for the assault, Murphy amplified his tale:

"You see, it's like this: It isn't safe now for an American in an English port to get into any kind of trouble. They run him in for just nothing. It happened this way: I was with another fellow, and he said to these officers that what was really needed in England now was the American 2d Division to clean things up for them. They looked at each other and the other fellow, so they jumped on my stomach instead."

"Sympathetic exclamations on the part of other ex-members of the tactical division led Murphy on to there now. I was at Portsmouth our last trip, in a taxi with two English girls, and the taxi driver insulted them. I told him to apologize to them or take his punishment. He wouldn't apologize, so I was giving it to him when an officer comes up and starts to arrest me. I says to him, 'Is it just because I'm a Yank that you're running me?' He says: 'Yes. What name?' When I says 'Murphy,' he says: 'Off you go. Beat it. Me name is Callahan, and I don't arrest no Irishmen.'"

"Amid the delightful shout of laughter evoked by this tale Murphy retreated, bearing his pile of plates.

Social Equality.

"Murphy's running mate, being of English descent, is less loquacious, but rejoices in as simple a conviction of his own social equality with those he just somehow happens to be serving, as, indeed, he well may, for, while they are undergraduates at Harvard, he is a student of the same university in the Boston Institute of Technology."

"Have some butter, Buddy," he asks the smallest member of our party, a little English boy of six, putting his hand fraternally on his shoulder. And when the largest member, a great football playing celebrity, asks for more ice cream, after a colossal previous achievement, the hand again gives a gentle pat on the great, broad shoulder, and he says, amiably, 'I'm bringing you nothing more this meal.'"

"Murphy is meanwhile to be observed at the other end of the table emptying ice-cream into a glass, destined, he explains cheerfully, to be conveyed under a napkin to two Irish girls in the steerage."

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age. They come from the same county Murphy left when he was three years old, and it is obvious that he cannot stand by and see them lack any procurable good.

Murphy tells us that he is at sea for his health, and because his trade union is on strike, anyway. His trade union is, it appears mysteriously enough, the bricklayers, though he himself is a draughtsman in a reinforced concrete works. They are striking, he tells us, for a modest \$4 an hour rate of wages. (The pound standing now at \$3.50 it will be understood that over a guinea an hour is their simple little objective.)

"The professor next to me smiles as he listens to Murphy's explanation that it really isn't as much as it sounds, for 187 eight-hour days is their average employment during the year."

Real Democracy

"One can learn a good deal from Murphy in the course of a somewhat anarchic meal, after he has deposited the ice cream next to the half-empty vegetable dishes, and while he is considering whether it is worth while to clear away the soup plates."

"On deck the same engagingly fraternal meurs are to be studied."

"Little sister," says a deckhand to my too adventurous daughter—"little sister, don't you be going farrard any more to-night. A big wave'll come and knock you to kingdom come and down you'll go into the scuppers and come up limpin'."

"What did he say?" she whispers. "I often don't understand half of their American talk."

"Sho does, however, understand the simple kindness, the unsuspecting, ingenious, guileless democracy of their American attitude."

"For America remains, in spite of economic inequalities as great as any in the Old World, in spite of political prisoners and bitter strikes, the land of social equality, of easy, friendly, humorous democracy in street and room and ship and shop. It is a democracy so real as to be utterly unself-conscious, so that neither the temporary steward nor the college boy is ever for a moment aware of its existence, ever for a moment suspect that their mutual attitude has in it any element different or remarkable or interesting to the traveler from other and more sophisticated lands."

"Hats On" in Elevators

Crusade Stirs Cincinnati

Association Contends Removal Is Menace to Passengers, Whereupon Women Object

CINCINNATI, Dec. 25.—"Hats on" in elevators, even though there may be women passengers, is the slogan of the Cincinnati Building Owners' and Managers' Association which has started a crusade to that end. Whether they will win their contention that the removal of hats in crowded elevators is a menace to passengers in the immediate vicinity of those who take off their headgear remains to be seen, for many prominent Cincinnati women are opposed to the abolition of this old-fashioned courtesy.

"The habit," said Captain W. M. McIntyre, president of the association, "was introduced by Southern people traveling in the north. Originally, I understand, negroes were required to remove their hats on entering elevators and in time white men followed the example when women were on the lift. On the same principle why do not men take off their hats when traveling in a street car which also contains women passengers?"

And Captain McIntyre got the following answers from women:

"I do not see any reason to discard this courtesy. Courtesy is not a gift. It is merely an exemplification of what a man is. Women never will endeavor to decide this problem for the men."

Mrs. Kennon Dunham, president of the Cincinnati Women's Club.

"Just because women have been enfranchised is not a sufficient reason to affect the innate courtesy of men which a true gentleman will show toward a woman."—Mrs. Fenton Lawson, president of Woman's City Club.

"I do not see why now that women have been given equal voting right with men that any established custom should be effected."—Miss Agnes Hill, representative of First District of Ohio, League of Women Voters.

"I do not believe men are going to lose their chivalry. Experience during the recent campaign convinced me that the men are not going to lose it. The question depends upon the woman to a great extent. If she is the sort of woman men respect she will hold this respect no matter what field of business or political activity she may enter."—Mrs. Florence G. Schwab, member of Hamilton County Republican Executive Committee.

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Coat and Slip-on Models—2 to 6 years.

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Knitted Bands—25c

Infants—1 to 2 years.

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